

[³⁰] *Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [³¹] but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*

[John 20:30-31]

Did you notice that close to the beginning of John 20:30 you find the adverb “*THEREFORE*”? Have you ever heard someone say that when you read the Bible If you read the word therefore; you need to stop and ask yourself what is this therefore, there for? To answer that question here in John 20:30, you need to back up and read John 20:19-29.

In this context you may remember that after Jesus was crucified and buried His disciples were hiding. Then after His resurrection Jesus appeared to them in their hiding place two times. The first time Jesus appeared to His disciples Thomas was not with them. When Thomas later returned, “*The other disciples... were saying to him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’*” [John 20:25a]. However, Thomas did not believe what they said to Him. Listen to Thomas’ response to them in John 20:25b. Thomas responded, “*“UNLESS I SEE in His hands the imprint of the nails and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I WILL NOT BELIEVE.”*”

However, the second time Jesus appeared Thomas was there with the other disciples. Jesus then said to Thomas, “*“Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving but believing.”*” Thomas then declared in John 20:28, “*“My Lord and my God!”*”

In John 20:29 Jesus then responds to Thomas. Listen closely to what Jesus said to Thomas,
“*Because you have seen Me, have you believed?...*”

Are you listening?

“*... Blessed are they WHO HAVE NOT SEEN, and YET BELIEVED.”*”

This is the reason this, therefore, is there for. It is to show that the reason the “*signs*” written in the Bible are in the Bible is so “*that you (who have not seen) MAY BELIEVE that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His Name*” [John 20:31].

Consider also what Jesus says in John 5:24 where you hear Him say,

“*Truly, truly, I say to you, THE ONE HEARING My WORD, and BELIEVING Him Who sent Me, HAS ETERNAL LIFE, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*”

Then in John 5:38 Jesus also says that those who “*do not believe*” the One “*Whom*” God “*sent*” (Jesus), also “*do not have*” God’s “*WORD ABIDING IN*” them! Even though these may “*search the Scriptures, because (they) think that IN THEM (the Scriptures) (they) have eternal life*”, yet they do not realize that it is the Scriptures “*that bear witness*” to Whom Jesus truly is [John 5:39]! In fact, Jesus says these people are even “*unwilling to come to*” Him that they “*may have life*” [John 5:40].

Listen now to the encouraging WORDS of 1 Peter 1:8-9 where the Holy Spirit through the pen of Peter says to you,

^[8] *Whom (Jesus) HAVING NOT SEEN YOU LOVE, in Whom, now not seeing but BELIEVING, you REJOICE with JOY inexpressible and having been filled with glory, ^[9] OBTAINING as the OUTCOME OF your FAITH the SALVATION OF your (SOUL).*

As I prepare to close Today's Thought I must do so with one of my favorite verses in 1 John, 1 John 5:13. Listen closely as John tells why he has written this letter to those *WHO BELIEVE*. Are you listening? John is moved to write,

These things I have written TO YOU WHO BELIEVE IN the NAME of the Son of God, IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

Please now join me in a prayer?

Loving Heavenly Father, I bring You an offering of thanksgiving because of the Words you breathed, and which Your Holy Spirit moved men to write. I offer You praise that in Your eternal plan You have made provisions that we who have not seen Jesus in the flesh, may come to have a believing faith. I thank You for Your God-breathed Book, the Bible that we may come to have this believing faith! Give us hearts that so want to obtain eternal life that we would read and study and meditate upon Your Divine Word daily, that we may obtain unseeing faith. Teach us that we may teach others that their souls may be saved along with our own! It is in the Name of Jesus Your Son we pray. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** promising in His Word to never leave you or forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

*BECAUSE HIS WORD GIVES ME BELIEVING FAITH THAT HE IS THE CHRIST,
THE SON OF GOD WHO DIED TO SAVE MY SOUL! – tom*